

MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
FEBRUARY 11, 2002

The regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council was called to order by Mayor Elizabeth Paterson at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Bellm, Haddad, Paterson, Holinko, Hawkins, Rosen, Schaefer
(arrived at 7:32 p.m.) Thorkelson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to approve the minutes. Mr. Thorkelson requested a copy of the letter Mr. Schaefer wrote from the Mansfield Historical Society be added to the minutes.

So passed unanimously.

Mayor Paterson requested that item #6 be moved up on the agenda. By consensus it was.

6. Resolution Honoring George Whitham

Mayor Paterson read the attached Resolution honoring Mr. George Whitham. Mrs. Dolly H.R. Whitham accepted the framed resolution. Family members were present with Mrs. Whitham.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Mr. WA Al Cowan, 26 Spring Hill Road, retired faculty from the University of Connecticut, Department of Agriculture presented his opinion on the restoration of the Sheep Barn. He has been part of the UConn faculty since 1952 and although has been officially retired since 1985, he has retained his office on campus. He does not believe that the Sheep Barn, an added on structure to the Farwell barn, is worth restoring. There is a historic photo of the Farwell Barn in the Agriculture building which clearly shows that the silo and sheep barn were not historic and not a part of the original barn. The sheep building as it is now is a disgrace and should be raised. He further stated that the sheep barn could never contain animals since the regulations and specifications for such a structure had greatly changed. This building could not under the building regulations have animals. Although not in favor of the Sheep Barn being restored he did support the restoration of the Farwell Barn (Jacobson Barn).

Marcia Zimmer, 43 Bundy Lane, Project Director for Juniper Hill Village, requested that the town prioritize their needs with Small Cities Grant Projects. The seniors need a better dining room facility that feeds up to

100 meals a day throughout the year.

Bill Wengel, 10A Sycamore Drive, a member of the Juniper Hill Board of Governors, spoke in favor of the possibility of a grant to enhance the kitchen/dining area. The elderly population is increasing and their needs must be met.

Ruth McLaughlin, 61 Separatist Road, was concerned that a letter to Mr. Tom Callahan of the University of Connecticut from Paul Ritsick, Supervising Sanitary Engineer, the Water Supplies Section of the Dept. of Public Health regarding the well of Mr. and Mrs. Schwepe of 89 Separatist was with the draft on water quality. The Schwepes are presently on vacation and Ruth McLaughlin was speaking on their behalf. What they wanted to know was why this letter was included in the Gail Batchelder water quality evaluation draft report. Town Manager stated that Gail Batchelder included the material she felt was relevant to this issue.

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to add item 10a. Prioritization of Small Cities Grant. By consensus item was added.

1. Commission on Aging

Susanna Thomas, Chair of the Commission on Aging, spoke on the role of the Commission and how and why it was established. She referred to the Long-Range Plan that was written by the Commission in 1994. The annual report she wrote is now in the Town of Mansfield calendar. She was pleased to answer any questions of the Council members.

I. OLD BUSINESS

2. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill Including the UConn Consent Order, Public Participation Relative to the Consent Order and Well Testing

There was no action needed to be taken by the Town Council.

3. Social Security Alternative for Part-time Employees

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to authorize the Town Manager to amend the current Section 457 plan with the ICMA Retirement Corporation to include part-time, seasonal and temporary employees.

So passed unanimously.

4. Financial Statements Dated December 31, 2001

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to accept the Financial Statements dated December 31, 2001.

So passed unanimously.

5. FY 2000/01 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Mr. Schaefer, Chair of the Finance Committee, moved to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2001.

So passed unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

7. Proclamation in Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Holinko seconded to approve the proposed proclamation in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts and to invite the local Girl Scouts troops to the next Council meeting to receive the proclamation.

So passed unanimously.

8. 2002 Voter Redistricting Plan

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Bellm seconded to approve the 2002 Voter Redistricting Plan for the Town of Mansfield, as recommended by the Registrars of Voters.

So passed unanimously.

9. Pending Claims and Litigation-Quarterly Status Report

No action needed to be taken by Council.

10. Route 6 Expressway Funding Replacement Projects

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to endorse the Windham Region Council of Governments' proposal for Route 6 Expressway funding replacement projects.

Motion so passed. Mr. Bellm voted against.

10a. Prioritization of Small Cities Grant Program projects listing Juniper Hills and Wrights Mill tied for first and Sheep barn as second.

Town Manager informed the Council that certain information regarding what projects could qualify for small cities grant projects has not been given to his office. He is waiting for further information.

Mr. Holinko moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to table this for a future agenda.

So passed unanimously

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Rosen seconded to add item 10b to the agenda DEP Recreational Trails Grant.

So passed unanimously.

10b. DEP Recreational Trails Grant

Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded to authorize the Town Manager to modify the grant application to the Department of Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Grant Program from \$2,400 to \$9,000.

So passed unanimously.

11. WPCA-Proposed FY 2002/03 Willimantic Sewer Budget

Mr. Bellm moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn as the Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Thorkelson seconded to adopt the proposed fiscal year 2002/2003 Willimantic Sewer Budget as presented by the Director of Finance.

So passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn as the Water Pollution Control Authority and reconvene as the Town Council.

So passed unanimously.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

None

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None

IX. TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

There is a Town/Gown Meeting at 4:00 p.m. at UConn tomorrow.

The water study is nearing completion.

The public presentation and workshop on an ongoing "Lands of Unique Value" analysis for Mansfield was held on Feb. 7, 2002 in the Council Chamber. About 35 townspeople attended. This cooperative project will create an updated inventory of Mansfield's natural, cultural and visual features which will be an important data source for the Plan of Conservation

and Development update which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2003.

X. FUTURE AGENDAS

Suggestion to discuss seatbelts in school buses with the Board of Education.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

12. E. Paterson re: Farwell Barn Restoration
13. K. Tubridy re: Farwell Barn Restoration
14. P. Austin re: 21st Century UConn
15. M. Berliner re: Library Advisory Board Appointments
16. ConnDOT re: 2002 Construction Season State Highway Safety Improvements
17. Birch Road Bikeway Public Information Meeting
18. Mansfield Residents re: Smoke-free Legislation
19. SGT. M. Darcy re: Motor Vehicle Accident Statistics
20. SGT. M. Darcy re: Update on Traffic Enforcement Program

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:50 p.m. Mr. Rosen moved and Mr. Bellm seconded to go into executive session with the Town Manager for purposes of Open Space Acquisition and Personnel.

So passed unanimously.

At 9:12 p.m. Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to come out of Executive Session.

So passed unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:13 p.m. Mr. Thorkelson moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to adjourn the meeting.

So passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor
Joan E. Gerdson, Town Clerk